THE GAMBIA

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE 1948.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
Joint Library
Washington 6, D. C.
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

BATHURST.
PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER,
1949.

Price 6d.

THE GAMBIA

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE 1948.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The Secretary of State has approved the following allocation in the Gambia of funds voted in the United Kingdom under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. This allocation is subject to approval of individual schemes. The amount granted from the allocation for approved schemes is shown in the second column. The third column shows the amount from the allocation (including the amounts in the second column) which will be required for these schemes for the ten years period ending in 1955. The uncommitted balance of the allocation is shown in the fourth column.

	Allocation	Grants for approved schemes.	Total set aside.	Uncommitted Balance.
Agriculture	£ 99,000	87,140	118,612*	56,388
Reserves	76,000			
Veterinary	90,000	35,000	80,000†	10,000
Education	162,000	78,200	148,200‡	13,800
Medical and Health	264,000	163,000	264,000§	—
Minor Industries	45,000	21,000	35,000	10,000
Schemes outstanding at 1st April 1945	14,000	16,600	16,600	—
General Reserve	50,000	—	—	47,400‖
	£800,000	400,940	662,412	137,588

* includes £4,472 under D.247.
† includes £35,000 under Joint Sierra Leone Scheme.
‡ excluding non-recurrent expense.
§ includes £16,000 under D.548.
‖ £16,200 required to supplement amount for school buildings.

2. Schemes and expenditure under the above allocations are listed in Appendix ' B '. Schemes under the 1940 Act appear in Appendix ' A ' and in Appendix ' C ' is shown the ten years development plan for services assisted under the Act.

3. These schemes are described below under their various heads.

AGRICULTURE. (D.723, D.728, D.769 and D.934).

4. During the year Scheme D.723, for the purchase of agricultural machinery for use by the Agricultural Department working in co-operation with the Nutrition Field Working Party at Jenieri, was completed. Scheme D.841, a small pilot scheme for a total of £7,532 granted in November, 1947, for the purchase of fertilisers, equipment and the salary of a mechanic, for experimental purposes, was cancelled and superseded in April, 1948, by a new and fuller scheme D.934 for £18,140 to cover the cost of the production of groundnuts by the Nutrition Field Working Party as part of their experimental programme (see under Research Scheme R.160) for a period of three years.

5. This provision became necessary in consequence of a series of disappointments in the cultivation of rice as the basis of the Nutrition Field Working Party's experiments under the provision of Scheme D.769. Towards the end of 1947 it was decided that the cultivation of groundnuts provided a more secure basis for community development with mechanisation. Experiments in rice growing have been continued under scheme D.769 as a departmental undertaking without special relation to the work of the Nutrition Field Working Party. These experiments which were begun at Jenoi in the neighbourhood of Geneiri have been extended eastward along the river.

6. Expenditure under the scheme for improvement of agricultural methods (D.728), was continued during the year. It was not found practicable to proceed with the irrigation and poultry farming projects provided for under this scheme. A further £27,000 has been set aside for continuing this scheme after 1950 when the present scheme comes to an end. £4,472 spent under Scheme D.247 is chargeable to the allocation under the 1945 Act.

VETERINARY. (D.216, 216A).

7. These two schemes, providing for the extension of veterinary work in the Gambia and for the cost of a joint department with Sierra Leone, came to an end on the 31st December, 1948, and an application was made for a new grant to cover the cost of the establishment of the Gambia Veterinary Department as a separate unit from the 1st January, 1949, to March, 1955. The total estimated expenditure during the period is £84,465 of which £45,000 is being asked for as a free grant.

EDUCATION. (D.727).

8. The posts of Protectorate Education Officer and Lady Education Officer which were made available under this scheme were filled during the year. A record of progress made will be found in the Report of the Education Department for the year. The approved scheme carries on until 1950 and £53,000 is set aside for the years 1951—1955. £17,000 from the 1945 Act allocation was spent under Scheme D.298, which was superseded by Scheme D.727.

9. Expansion of Education beyond the scale covered by the scheme is being provided for from the Colony's revenue.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH. (D.883).

10. A new scheme, serially numbered as above for £163,000, was approved during the year. This supersedes and includes scheme D.548, and provides for expenditure until 1950. £85,000 is set aside from the allocation under the 1945 Act to carry on the scheme until 1955. £16,000 spent under D.548 is also chargeable to this allocation.

The programme of training and expansion went forward as planned; details will be found in the departmental annual report. Reconstruction of the Victoria Hospital was not begun during the year. (At the time of writing, January, 1949, the foundations have been partly laid).

MINOR INDUSTRIES. (D.764 and 764A).

11. No suitable fishing vessel could be obtained with the amount of £3,000 set aside for this purpose. In the hope of obtaining a satisfactory ship quickly, the Master Fisherman returned to the United Kingdom in the summer. A converted motor fishing vessel could have been obtained for £13,000 but this was not thought worth the price and at the end of the year it was decided to order a new 45-foot ship to be built. The inclusive cost of a new ship is expected to be about £10,000.

12. The lack of a vessel has prevented the Master Fisherman from carrying out the developments which it had been hoped would take place during the year. However, two minor branches of the main fisheries project were successful. First, the crawfish trade: Gambian coastal waters hold Royal Crawfish (*Panulirus regius*) which appear to have been made uncommon in Senegal waters by over-fishing. Consequently Senegalese fishermen have turned their attention to the Gambia. To ensure the survival of the crawfish it is important to guard against the taking of immature fish and of fish with eggs. The Master Fisherman is training the fishermen at certain coastal villages in the proper way of developing this branch of fishing and frequent supplies of mature crawfish have been sold in Bathurst.

13. Secondly, propaganda among local fishermen has resulted in the collection and preservation of approximately 8 cwt of swim-bladders for despatch to England and manufacture into commercial isinglass. When the motor fishing vessel is in operation it is hoped to export possibly as much as 10 tons of prepared swim-bladders each year. At present it is considered that an advance has been made by the acceptance among fishermen of the idea that the swim-bladders should be retained as something of potential value.

14. A scheme to finance a local fishing enterprise proved a failure and the Government assumed ownership of the gear bought with the money advanced.

15. During the year the tomato puree factory which was found to be uneconomical was leased at a low rent to a local trader.

16. The Scheme approved extends to 1951 and £14,000 is required for carrying the scheme on until 1955.

RESEARCH.

NUTRITION. (R. 160, R. 180, R. 199 and R. 284).

17. The work of the Nutrition Field Working Party at Jenieri continued during the year under the provision of Scheme R. 160 which is administered by the Gambia Government from funds additional to the allocation of £800,000 under the 1945 Act. Agricultural Schemes D.723, D.769 and D.934 are operated in connexion with the project.

18. It was decided during the second half of the year to extend the work of the Field Research Station at Fajara, hitherto confined to nutrition, to cover a much wider field which might include the following:—

(i) research into eye diseases, including those partly or wholly due to malnutrition;
(ii) gastro-intestinal diseases;
(iii) infant feeding and the diseases of young children.
(iv) anaemia;
(v) skin diseases;
(vi) extension of work on the pathology of the liver;
(vii) parasitisation.

19. The work of the station is financed by Scheme R. 180 and a further scheme, R.284, has been approved as a first step to provide for the work of reconditioning the additional buildings (forming part of the old 55th Field Hospital in which the Research Station is housed) which this extension of work will require. A small scheme R.199, provides for the employment of an individual doctor for a limited period in association with the work of the Nutrition Field Working Party. Schemes R.180, 284 and 199 are not administered by the Gambia Government.

BATHURST AND KOMBO DEVELOPMENT.

20. £500,000 is available under the 1945 Act for this purpose.

I. Schemes approved before 1948.

21. (i) *D. 656 The Bathurst Drainage Scheme.* (*£118,600*). Work continued throughout the year, progress being slower than had been hoped as machinery needed for dredging had to be diverted to urgent and unforseen repairs of the marine slipway.

(ii) *D. 656c The Kotu Drainage Scheme.* The Kotu stream rose to an abnormally high level during the heavy rains and the outlet pipe proved too narrow for disposing quickly of the surplus water held behind the dam. The spillway designed for draining off excess water in circumstances such as these also proved to be too small for the floods which forced a breach in the bund. Fortunately much of the bund, and the concrete outlet and sluice, were found to be undamaged when the waters fell. Nothing could be done to further the work of drainage while the stream remained higher than dry-season level. It was agreed, however, that before the rains of 1949 the breach in the bund should be closed by sheet piling, the top of the piling to be lower than the bund but just higher than the level of spring high-tides. Thus it is hoped to drain the swamp by keeping the sea out of the stream bed and discharging excess fresh water into the sea.

II. New schemes approved during 1948.

22. (i) *D. 919 Public Latrines for Bathurst.* In March the approval of the Secretary of State was received of a scheme for the provision of twenty public latrines of the static tank type at a total cost of £20,000. Work on five of these was nearing completion at the end of the year.

(ii) *1041 Reclamation of Swamp lands in and adjoining Island of St. Mary.* In December the approval of the Secretary of State was received to the recommendation that consulting engineers should be asked to advise on the practicability of the reclamation scheme. The engineering firm of Sir Wm. Halcrow and Partners was selected by the Crown Agents for the investigation and a visit from a representative of this firm was expected to take place early in 1949.

III. New Scheme awaiting approval.

23. *Water Supplies.* In December, an application was made to the Secretary of State for a free grant of £10,000 to enable investigations to be made into the practicability of obtaining from deep

bore-holes in the Kombo an ample supply of pure water for Bathurst and the villages in the neighbourhood. This application was based on the findings of Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Sons. The present water-works at Abuko were constructed to meet the needs of Bathurst when the town's population was some 10,000. The source of supply is insufficient in the dry season for the present day population and the machinery needs renewing. It is considered that new waterworks should be designed to allow for a daily consumption of 25—30 gallons per head for the increasing population of Bathurst as well as the Kombo.

THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

24. In June a local Development Council was formed, its terms of reference being to advise Government on schemes for the development of Bathurst and the Kombo Districts and the amount of money that should be devoted to each from the balance of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act allocation of £500,000. This body represents all the Wards of Bathurst, the Kombo Districts, and other local interests and it has superseded the Standing Advisory Committee on Development and Welfare.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT SCHOLARSHIPS.

25. £4,000 has been allocated for the Gambia from the central fund for scholarships. This is for the period to the 31st December, 1949 and it is hoped that an allocation of £6,000 will be available for the period 1950—1955. At the end of 1948 there were two scholars being trained in Britain under this scheme.

SCHEMES APPROVED UNDER THE 1940 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT.

Scheme No.	Department.	Description of Scheme.	Amount of Scheme. £	Amount spent £ s. d.	Remarks.
D. 69	Education ...	Educational Training Courses ...	3,661	485 0 0	Lapsed in 1944.
D. 145 D. 298	Education ...	School Teachers' Salaries	44,000	7,091 0 0	Superseded by D. 727. part chargeable to allocation under 1940 Act.
D. 70	Agricultural ...	Agricultural Training Courses ...	1,154	1,047 0 0	Lapsed in 1945.
D. 247	Agricultural ...	Rice Cultivation ...	15,250	4,809 0 0	Superseded by Scheme D. 728. £4,472 chargeable to allocation under 1945 Act.
D. 284	Agricultural ...	Colonial Agricultural Scholarships	267	267 0 0	Lapsed.
D. 71	Medical	Pharmacy and Laboratory Courses ...	488	107 0 0	Lapsed in 1944.
D. 223 & 548	Medical and Health Services...	Medical and Health ...	49,511	10,000 0 0	Part chargeable for period to 31.3.45.
D. 161	Protectorate ...	Senior Commissioner ...	3,900	3,900 0 0	£2,000 chargeable to allocation under 1945 Act.
D. 263	Bathurst & Kombo	Development of Kombo	30,000	19,356 0 0	Lapsed in 1945 and superseded by Scheme D. 636.
D. 407	Secretariat ...	Development Committee Secretary	3,500	1,495 0 0	£1,117 chargeable to allocation under 1945 Act.
D. 731	Public Relations	Social Science Scholarship	840	840 0 0	Completed.

SCHEMES APPROVED UNDER THE 1945 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT.

Scheme No.	Department or Service.	Description of Scheme.	Amount granted for Scheme.	Amount of estimated expenditure to 31/12/48.	Balance remaining.	Remarks.
			£	£	£	
D.216 & D.216A	Veterinary	Veterinary	35,000	35,000	—	Estimated share chargeable to Gambia Government of joint Sierra Leone—Gambia scheme.
D.548	Medical and Health ...	Medical and Health ...*	25,122	50,122	138,000	Includes balance of D548 chargeable to allocation under 1948 Act.
D.883			163,000			
D.592	Public Utilities Dept.	Road & Ferry Investigations	130	130	—	Originally £6,620. Balance of £6,490 relinquished.
D.727	Education	Education *	78,200	52,085	43,400	Includes balance of D298 chargeable to allocation under 1945 Act.
D.298			17,285			
D.728	Agricultural	Improvement of Agri-* cultural methods.	32,000	14,300	17,700	
D.723	Agricultural	Purchase of Agricultural Machinery.	8,000	7,491	Completed	
D.769	Agricultural	Maintenance & Operation of Machinery.	29,000	5,200	23,800	
D.934		Mechanical Cultivation	18,140	8,000	10,140	
D.764 & D.764A	Department of Supplies and Minor Industries	Development of Minor* Industries.	21,000	8,000	13,000	
D.636 & D.636C	Bathurst and Kombo Development ...	Drainage of Bathurst and Kotu	166,600	35,000	—	
D.919	Bathurst and Kombo Development ...	Public Latrines Bathurst	20,000	5,000	15,000	
1,041	Bathurst and Kombo Development ...	Investigations into swamp reclamation	1,050	—	1,050	

*Schemes approved for period up to 1950.

EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR THE TEN YEARS 1946 TO 1955 FOR DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES ASSISTED

SERVICE		1946 £	1947 £	1948 £	1949 £	1950 £	1951 £	1952 £
Medical & Health:	C. D. W. A.—Expenditure	4,538	11,462	25,000	25,000*	25,000	25,000	22,000
Medical & Health:	Government—Expenditure	50,495	56,934	50,800	53,500	55,200	56,000	59,800
Total		55,033	68,396	75,800	78,500	80,200	81,000	81,800
Education:	C. D. W. A.—Expenditure	8,800	14,803	18,000	20,000	17,397	16,000	14,000
Education:	Government—Expenditure	11,846	12,891	11,322	20,411	23,603	25,500	28,000
Total		20,646	27,694	29,322	40,411	41,000	41,500	42,000
Veterinary Service:	C. D. W. A.—Expenditure	9,000	10,000	9,000	6,075	4,075	2,575	2,375
Veterinary Service:	Government—Expenditure	2,526	2,105	2,500	2,900	4,675	6,375	6,840
Total		11,526	12,105	11,500	8,975	8,750	8,950	9,215
Agriculture: (nett)	C. D. W. A.—Expenditure	4,000*	15,861*	18,600*	23,000*	23,000†	23,000	23,000
Agriculture: (nett)	Government—Expenditure	10,846	10,491	9,450	11,911	12,000	13,000	14,000
Total		14,846	26,352	28,050	34,911	35,000	36,000	37,000
Supplies & Minor Industries:	C. D. W. A.—Expenditure		2,981*	4,000	4,000*	4,000	4,000	4,000
Supplies & Minor Industries:	Government—Expenditure		178	759	2,345	2,500	2,000	1,500
Total (nett)			3,159	4,759	6,345	6,500	6,000	5,500
Development of Bathurst and the Kombo:								
Drainage of Bathurst		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Static tank latrines in Bathurst		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investigations into swamp reclamation at Bathurst		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Investigations Bathurst and Kombo Water Supply (awaiting approval)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unallocated		—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Approved †£6,550

APPENDIX C.

46 TO 1955 FOR DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES ASSISTED BY GRANTS UNDER THE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT.

1948 £	1949 £	1950 £	1951 £	1952 £	1953 £	1954 £	1955 £	Non-recurrent £	Total £	Details of non-Recurrent Expenditure
,000*	25,000*	25,000	25,000	22,000	19,000	16,000	3,000	88,000	264,000	Rebuilding of Victoria Hospital and building of Health Centres in the Protectorate.
,800	53,500	55,200	56,000	59,800	63,500	67,200	81,000	59,000	644,429	Dispensaries etc. in the Protectorate.
,800	78,500	80,200	81,000	81,800	82,500	83,200	84,000	138,000	908,429	
,000*	20,000*	17,397	16,000	14,000	12,000	8,000	3,000	30,000	162,000	New Armitage School at Mansa Konko.
,822	20,411	23,603	25,500	28,000	30,500	35,000	10,000	10,000	249,000	School buildings in the Protectorate..
,822	40,411	41,000	41,500	42,000	42,500	43,000	43,000	40,000	411,513	
,000	6,075	4,075	2,575	2,375	1,875	1,200	210	26,615	78,000	New Veterinary Camp at Abuko.
,500	2,900	4,675	6,375	6,840	7,630	8,775	2,270		54,626	
,500	8,975	8,750	8,950	9,215	9,505	9,975	10,510	26,615	127,626	
,600*	23,000*	23,000†	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000	3,539	—	175,000	
,450	11,911	12,000	13,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	—	126,698	
,050	34,911	35,000	36,000	37,000	34,000	34,000	17,539	—	301,698	
,000	4,000*	4,000*	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	1,000	13,019	45,000	Fishing vessel and equipment.
,59	2,845	2,500	2,000	1,500	1,000	1,500	2,000	—	12,782	
,59	6,845	6,500	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,500	3,000	13,019	57,782	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	166,600	166,600	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,000	20,000	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,050	1,050	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	10,000	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	304,400	304,400	
									500,000	

*Approved †£6,550 approved